

Director's Corner

Normally, October is when we look forward to a fresh start on a new fiscal year. It has been a while since we have enjoyed such a simple situation as that, and this year is an exception to all exceptions. With Congress still unable to pass a budget our programs are currently surviving on funds carried over from the previous fiscal year. Ideally, we try to save at least enough money to operate for one month into the beginning of the next fiscal in case there is no budget or continuing resolution. I have never experienced that situation until now. It has happened several times in the past but did not last very long.

In the case that a program runs out of carry-over funds, staff may need to be put on work deferment (aka furlough) – a form of unpaid leave. We will make every effort to give employees as much notice as possible, should work deferment be necessary. Should funding be restored prior to the effective date of a work deferment, the notice will be revoked. As we know, this is a constantly evolving situation, so we will communicate more detailed information, as we know more in the days and weeks ahead.

In the meantime, there are a few things we can do to minimize use of carry-over funds. We must reduce all discretionary spending, for example, procurements and travel. Only “mission critical” travel will be approved through the end of November. In the case of foreign trips that are deemed mission critical, you may go ahead and file a travel authorization. If the budget situation is resolved prior to the trip, then it will be approved. I know that it might increase the cost of airfare and hotels, but other than that, the only other choice is not to go.

I am optimistic, but perhaps not realistic, that Congress will resolve the impasse and get things moving again soon. However, even if it is within the next week or so, it is not clear how long it will take to start moving money to the labs. It is unlikely that funding will get to the lab before the end of October. This is why we need to include November in our austerity planning. These are tough times, but eventually the storm will pass and we can get back to doing great science. Hang in there!

Steve

CSEE Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

On September 25th the Lab's Center for Science and Engineering Education (CSEE) celebrated its 25th birthday. A birthday party was held in the Building 50 Auditorium to mark the event. As part of the celebration, CSEE changed its name to the Workforce Development and Education Office. A new video that highlights the offices work and impact debuted at the event (it can be found at <http://education.lbl.gov>).

Also part of the celebration was honoring founding staff members, partner organizations, and more than 450 Lab volunteers who have participated in educational outreach through CSEE programs over the past two and a half decades. AFRD's Ina Reichel and Peter Seidl were lauded for their “extraordinary commitment to inspiring and preparing the next generation of scientific professionals”.

The event also introduced the Lab's Education Working Group to a wider audience. The Group has one member from each Division (AFRD's member is Ina Reichel). It serves to help Divisions coordinate education outreach, foster collaboration on education outreach and learn from each other. It meets once a month.

If you would like to volunteer with the Lab's 5th grade program BLAZES (Berkeley Lab Adventure Zone in Elementary Science), the next training workshop for volunteers will be held on November 11th from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Registration is required at <https://docs.google.com/a/lbl.gov/spreadsheet/embeddedform?formkey=dDdQV3Z3LXhtUWNzVUo2aUw4RjNPUOE6MQ>

If you would like to volunteer for other education outreach programs, please fill out the survey on this page: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QX7GTRB>



North American Particle Accelerator Conference

Berkeley Lab, together with SLAC and UCLA hosted the North American Particle Accelerator Conference in Pasadena from September 30th to October 4th. Although primarily a North American conference (382 of

the 480 paid registrants) NA-PAC'13 drew 55 delegates from Europe and 38 from Asia (20 countries were represented). Support of students is an important element of PAC's development of the future accelerator community; 37 students attended under travel grants, for a total of 535 delegates. Forty-nine companies and organizations were represented in the exhibit hall. Four hundred sixty-six papers were accepted for the Proceedings, which will appear on the Joint Accelerator Conferences Website (JACoW.org).

AFRD's Jean-Luc Vay was awarded a U.S. Particle Accelerator School (USPAS) Prize for Achievement in Accelerator Science and Technology "for original contributions to the development of novel methods for simulating particle beams, particularly the Lorentz boosted frame techniques, and for the successful application of these methods to multi-scale, multi-species problems."

AFRD alum Kwang-Je Kim was awarded a USPAS Prize for "for a life-time of leadership in beam physics and for significant theoretical contributions improving our understanding of photocathode electron guns, synchrotron radiation and free-electron lasers, and for his work educating young scientists."

Get to Know Your Colleague: Herb Toor

What is your current position and what are you working on right now?

I'm an Industrial Hygienist in the LBNL Health and Safety Department. I manage the PPE, Hearing Conservation, and Respiratory Protection Programs here at the Lab. Additionally, I am the EHS assigned Health and Safety Rep for AFRD, Physics, and NSD.

Have you done other things at the Lab prior to your current activities?

I previously conducted fume hood and glovebox performance assessments, coordinated biosafety cabinet recertifications, performed ergonomic evaluations for ESD, and managed the Industrial Hygiene Equipment Program.

What is your professional background? Where have you worked before coming to the Lab?

In the early 90s, I worked for Weiss Associates, an environmental consulting firm that specialized in hazardous waste remediation. In addition to administering Weiss's Respiratory Protection Program, I gained experience in the installation, operation and maintenance of ground water and soil vapor extraction systems. During this time, I worked at numerous Superfund sites throughout the Bay Area, including LLNL.

I left Weiss Associates to return to school and earn a graduate degree. After graduate school, I worked for IHI Environmental, a consulting firm that specialized in industrial hygiene, lead, and asbestos abatement oversight. During my work at IHI, I was a contractor to the Lab and ultimately applied for my current position.

Where are you from originally? Where did you go to college or university?

I grew up in Livermore and went to Sonoma State University for my undergraduate degree. I worked for a number of years before earning a Master of Public Health (MPH) at the University of California, Berkeley.

Would you share a proud achievement?

I am a self taught musician and played guitar with some friends at the Monterey Blues Festival several years ago.



Calendar

October 18th	3pm-5pm	Cafeteria	Celebrating Women @ the Lab (everyone welcome)
October 23rd	11:30-1:30	Cafeteria Lawn	3rd Annual Diversity Cultural Festival
November 11th	1:30am-1:30pm	7-211	BLAZES Volunteer Training (registration required)

Link of the Month: NYT: Women in Science

The New York Times recently published a great article on the status of women in science and the current state of research on why there are still so few of them. It is a fairly long article but contains lots of great information. Please read it and then go on and encourage a girl or young woman in science by telling her that she **does** belong here.

The article can be found here: <http://nyti.ms/1710DYr>

Thanks to Peter Seidl for the article on NAPAC, Joe Chew for some of the numbers therein and general proofreading, Roy Kaltschmidt for the photo from the CSEE event, and Herb Toor for "Get to Know Your Colleague".

Please send suggestions for news items, links or "get to know your colleague" to Ina Reichel (IReichel@lbl.gov).